

## Nolting Urges Viet-Nam Give More Candid News

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United States Ambassador to South Viet-Nam Frederick E. Nolting Jr., in a surprise statement yesterday, urged President Ngo Dinh Diem's government to be more candid with the public on both the good and the bad that is going on in South Viet-Nam.

"I feel that the more that is known of your efforts and your achievements — yes, of your occasional setbacks and failures—the more sympathy and support you will gain in your struggle for freedom," Nolting declared at a ceremony in Saigon dedicating some \$1 million worth of new communications equipment the U. S. had just given South Viet-Nam.

Nolting's diplomatic tactics until now have been based on fully underwriting Ngo in the belief that this was the only way to achieve effective co-operation from him in the joint U. S.-South Viet-Nam war effort.

Nolting's words yesterday, as reported by Reuters, followed a strong suggestion from Secretary of State Dean Rusk at his press conference two weeks ago. Without being specifically asked the question, Rusk volunteered: "We hope that there could be some improvement, not only in the situation in Viet-Nam, but in the availability of information about it . . . to representatives of the press."

The Kennedy Administration is known to be very concerned that the U. S. public, which has a large investment in manpower, money and

equipment in South Viet-Nam, has a right to know what results it is getting from that investment.

Until now, President Ngo and his brother and chief adviser, Ngo Dinh Nhu, have taken the tack that it is South Viet-Nam's war, the American military and economic advisers are South Viet-Nam's guests and Americans are no more entitled to a public accounting than the South Vietnamese themselves.

Yesterday, Nolting suggested "less touchiness and more of a willingness to face the bad along with the good in the months and years of effort that lie ahead."

He added: "I find that if we are falling down anywhere in our joint endeavor it is in this important task of keeping the fridge of understanding between our two peoples direct and free and clear . . . We should never try to 'outsmart' each other in the joint enterprise."

State Department officials in Washington said they knew of no particular recent instance of "outsmarting." But it is no secret that authorities in Washington have become increasingly unhappy with the "bad press" coming out of South Viet-Nam.

There is a worry that Ngo's government, is being contemptuous of the press, will focus attention on some unhappy tactical failings and detract from whatever successes may be developing in South Viet-Nam's war against its Communist infiltrators.

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